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## AMICIAL TIME.

The households of Honolulu are all dis-organized today. The harmless but necessary cook is taking his annual holiday. There are those who unthinkingly grumble at the custom, but after all it is a very small percentage of his time that the Chinese house servant asks for. Give him his three days at the New Year, and he will work week days and Sundays throughout the rest of the year. He never asks for every other "Sunday out," he does not bury half a dozen grand mothers during the twelve revolving months, he honestly does his work and saves his wages. One cannot begrudge the household servant his holiday, when he has been faithful for the full year.

Now is the time when the matron of the household shows her skill. If pater familias has chosen a helpmeet who is practical and a thorough house keeper, he will be fed rather better than he is at other times, for his food will be prepared by a skillful master hand. If he has taken unto his bosom a fashion plate, a peg upon which to hang pretty garments and gimcracks and jewelry, he will get nothing to eat at home, and will have to fly to the hotels or the grill to get his food.

It is a very searching time and there is probably no other during the year which more thoroughly shows the capabilities of the house wife. Under the rule of the true house wife every thing goes smoothly and the absence of the servants is barely noticed. Under the pseudo-house wife every thing is at sixes and sevens and things get as bad as at the annual spring cleaning at home, a type of marital torture which we are mercifully spared here.

## THE CHINESE PROBLEM.

The Chinese question instead of getting smaller, grows greater. Information upon the situation is almost impossible to obtain. Probably no set of people can get more accurate information than we of these Islands, but we find it difficult to piece together the many conflicting reports, and we are upon the main highway from the far East to the Far West.

There are terrible stories told of what has been done in China. Are they true or are they not? The scenes are vouched for by Dr. E. J. Dillon, who accompanied the allied forces on their march to Peking. Dr. Dillon had before investigated the atrocities in Armenia. Dr. Dillon is strong in his invective and he marshals his statements in overwhelming force. One may quote from him. He says:

"Surely, one needs not be puritanical or hysterical to condemn the wholesale ravishing, sometimes to death, of terrified females between the ages of six and sixty by clod-hopping, British soldiers who misrepresent alike Christianity and civilization."

He describes vividly the ravishing and bayoneting of three daughters of a Chinese of the upper class, also of the outrage of a wife and six-year-old daughter before the eyes of the husband and father, and then adds:

"I knew of others whose wives and daughters hanged themselves on trees or drowned themselves in garden-wells in order to escape a much worse lot. Chinese women honestly believe that no more terrible fate could overtake them than to fall alive into the hands of Europeans and Christians. And it is to be feared that they were right. Buddhism and Confucianism have their martyrs too, whose heroic feats no martyrology ever record. Some of those obscure, but right-minded girls and women hurled themselves into the river, and, finding only three feet of water there, kept their heads under the surface until death had set his seal on the sacrifice of their life. This suicidal frenzy was catching. It sometimes spread like wildfire, and the military authorities felt bound to stop it by force. A number of soldiers, possibly with one or other of the would-be criminals among them, were sent to the rescue. And they succeeded in saving the lives of many. But they complain that some of the women were doggedly resolved to die. In the water they offered a strong and often successful resistance to the efforts of their would-be saviours. Some, having been taken out of the river safe and sound, plunged in a second time, and found a merciful end. I have spoken of some of the men who took part in the work of rescuing those faithful wives and modest daughters, and they extolled their heroism to the skies. But a large number of ill-starred women fell alive into the hands of the allied troops. I saw some of them in Peking and Tung-tschau, but already dead, with frightful gashes in their breasts, or skulls smashed in, and one with a horribly mutilated body. There is a lady missionary in Peking who in company with a female colleague busied herself to my knowledge, for months, in shielding Chinese women and girls from being raped by Christian and European soldiers, and the work was anything but easy, though I have reason to believe that it has proved eminently successful. Even in the broad daylight, soldiers hung about the refuge, and employed various devices and tricks to get hold of the women whom they ought to have been first to protect."

If this is true, it is the most scathing rebuke ever passed upon Christian civilization. If this is true Christianity is a sham, for it has fostered as ravening wild beasts in man as ever paganism did. But one doubts the truth. One cannot believe that the troops of any civilized nation would behave as has

been stated by Dr. Dillon. Any one who has to deal with the sifting of news from ignorant sources, will know how easily a person can be deceived, and how quickly one isolated act may be multiplied into a hundred acts.

Stories of this kind are being multiplied over the world, the papers of every language publish them. It is always noticeable that the national paper throws the blame of the atrocities upon all other nationalities, save their own, and all unite in casting the greatest blame upon the Russian. Merely arguing theoretically, for it is impossible to argue upon absolute facts, one is surprised at this characteristic of the Russian. The Russian is a very kindly individual, he loves his family, he may not as the lower class be highly educated, though his education has been improving, he has a sympathetic nature. When the Russian gets drunk, and the poet says "in vino veritas" he does not get to fighting. He will fall on the neck of his vinous friend and kiss him. The southern races of Europe whip out their knives under similar circumstances. The north western races take to their fists.

One would like people to call a halt upon their judgment of the western troops in China. That there may have been wrong done, is not only possible, but certain, but that it was wrong inflicted by any particular nationality, one cannot believe. War calls forth the blackguard as well as the chivalrous side of humanity. If you let loose the dogs of war you may very well be satisfied that their methods will not be those of peace. But that all the stories of ravishing, murder and rapine are true, will require evidence to be believed.

But after all this is only a side issue. An important one as involving the honor of the Western nations and the safety of the missionaries. For how can the latter expect to be welcomed and believed in their statements of universal peace and brotherhood, when there are such terrible indictments. And the indictments do not only extend to the crimes mentioned, but they extend to looting on the part of missionaries. It is a terrible condition of affairs. It is unbelievable, but a majority of Chinese believe it, and how many decades will it take to get rid of the belief.

After all the main issue is trade. Upon Chinese trade depends the wages of hundreds of thousands in the New England States, in the oil region, in the South, in fact all over the Union. Cut off the Chinese trade and you have a very similar condition in the United States to what occurred in Lancashire at the time of the war of the rebellion. The Chinese question on this issue is momentous, and no one can tell how serious and far reaching it will be. It is occupying the minds of all statesmen but however clever they may be they do not see a solution. Indeed as things stand now, who can tell whether there will be a hard war in the coming spring or not. Who can say who will wage it? The United States is not likely to take any part, and yet if the United States does not and any other power is successful in a military point of view, where is the present magnificent and growing trade of the United States in the East going to be? The wheat and corn growers of the Middle West who never see a ship, do not understand that their prosperity lies in the merchant marine and the commerce of their country. It has always been the way with people of this class. It has been impossible to make such understand the advantage of the seaboard, and it is Senators and Representatives from such states that hamper the general policy of the executive. The Chinese question touches the United States seriously.

After a great funeral pageant Queen Victoria's earthly remains have been laid to rest. The concluding ceremonies were simple and not of long duration. The strain of bringing the body from Osborne, Isle of Wight to Windsor must have been very severe. The nation showed a noble tribute to a great and good woman.

The little Upolu seems to have had a pretty hard time. Her captain showed remarkable nerve while his little cock boat was being tossed about the inter-island channels. For a good, seaisick time cross the channels. Even old whaling skippers have given in between Honolulu and Hilo. But that is nothing in the sea faring line. Nelson was always sea sick, but he managed to watch the French fleet for eighteen months and was only on shore for four days.

Porto Rico is beginning to send considerable numbers of its inhabitants as laborers for the Territory of Hawaii. The matter of transport is now better understood, and those engaged in getting these laborers do not now meet with the difficulties that they did at the outset. There was a determined effort made then to prevent the immigration of Porto Ricans to the Territory. The effort did not prove a success, and has now been given up. Our planters can now get all the Porto Ricans that they need.

The troops upon the "Indiana" are suffering from dysentery. The medical authorities on board have kept such sufferers from coming ashore. It is hard on the patients undoubtedly, but is very much to the advantage of the city. Dysentery carries off thousands every year in Japan, in fact there are regular plagues of the disease. More Japanese have died of dysentery than ever succumbed to bubonic plague. The latter, being more mysterious is, consequently, more feared.

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